(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been step fall in export of tea during the last years: and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Exports of India tea have shown a declining trend during the years 1992-93, 1993-94 and the currant financial year, Reasons for lower quantum of exports are attributable to lower imports by Russia and other CIS countries on account of (their interna! economic problems; tower imports of tea by Iran, Egypt and Saudi Arabia and competition from other producing countries.

In order to step up exports of Indian lea to Russia, an agreement has been signed with Russian Government which int-T-aHa provides for import of tea under the debt repayment mechanism. A suitable module has been approved by the Government for promotional strategies to be undertaken in Russia and and other CIS countries by the Tea Board in consultation with the tea industry. Iranian authorities have also been requested to facilitate opening; ©f LCs for exports of Indian tea in respect of contracts signed by Indian exporters with Iranian buying agency. Other steps taken to boost exports of tea include promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices afcroad. Ir consists of (i) pariticipation in trade fiirs/exhibitions; (ii) media campaign to increase consumer swareness towards various unique characteristics of Indian tea (iii) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through Tea Board Marketing symbol and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. A part of the expenditure incurred by importers for promotional campaigns is met from Tea Board Budget. Ten Board has also undertaken Darjeeling and Assam Logo campaign in UK and sponsored brand promotion schenees to popularise classic Indfan t,eas-

Import of Plastic Garbage

S81. SHRI KRISHNAKUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been increasingly importing cheap and renrocessable plastic garbage.

(b) if so, what is the percentage rise in the imparts of cheap and reprocessab!e plastic garbage during the last three years (year-wise);

(c) whether Governmnt have made any study of the ha7,ards associated with the recycling of plastic waste;

(d) If so, what are the details therof; and

(e) what, is the comparative position in racyling of plastic waste in relation to the Western countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) Under ihe current Export and Import Policy, import of all types of plastic waste (except PET bottle waste) is restricted for import. This restriction hag been imposed with effect from 31-3-1994 on account of factors; including hazards associated with the recycling of plastic waste and after careful consideration of various issueg invoved. Therefore, the possibility of increase in imports of ptastic waste does nor arise.

Export of granite

882. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a)what is the total export of granite from India. during the years 1992-93. 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(c) what is the break of the total export in terms of raw granite and polished 'granite?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The break up of exports of granite are as driven below